

Rainbow Hydroelectric Facility,
Two-Stall Garage
200 feet northwest of Powerhouse
Great Falls Vicinity
Cascade County
Montana

HAER No. MT-95-C

HAER
MONT
7-GREFA.
2C-

PHOTOGRAPHS
HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
Rocky Mountain Regional Office
National Park Service
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225-0287

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

RAINBOW HYDROELECTRIC FACILITY,
TWO-STALL GARAGE

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I. INTRODUCTION

Location: The two-stall garage is located at the Rainbow Hydroelectric Facility, which contributes to the significance of the Great Falls Hydroelectric Facilities Historic District. The garage is 200 feet northwest of the southwest corner of the Rainbow Powerhouse. The Rainbow Facility is located on the Missouri River, two miles northeast of Great Falls, Montana.

Quad: Northeast Great Falls, Mont.

UTM: Zone 12: 485330 Easting; 5264820 Northing

Date of Construction: 1933

Present Owner: The Montana Power Company
40 East Broadway
Butte, Montana 59701

Present Use: Garage

Significance: The Great Falls Hydroelectric Facilities Historic District is significant for its association with the industrial development of Montana and the consolidation of most of Montana's electric industry into The Montana Power Company. The district is also associated with John D. Ryan, the promoter of hydroelectric development at Great Falls. The buildings and structures are representative examples of design concepts of the period. The two-stall garage contributes to the significance of the district.

Historian: Mary McCormick and Lon Johnson
Renewable Technologies, Inc.
Butte, Montana 59701
April 1995

II. ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The two-stall garage is located at the northeastern boundary of the Rainbow Hydroelectric Facility's operator's camp (see figure 1). Montana Power constructed the two-stall garage in 1933; two other garages were constructed at the same time. They were built for the use of the residents of the camp.

The wood-frame, two-stall garage measures 20'-5" x 20'-0" and has a concrete foundation and floor. The shed-roof is covered with new rolled roofing. It has a stepped parapet on the front (southwest) and parapets along the northwest and southeast sides. The walls are sheathed with boards, covered with a compressed fiber insulating board, and rolled roofing (called "rubberoid" in one company publication). The rolled roofing has an aluminum colored finish.

The garage has two garage doors on the northeast side. The paired, outward-swinging doors are constructed of vertical tongue-and-groove boards. Each door is bordered with 1x4 boards and has 1x4 cross bracing. The doors are covered with the same rolled roofing as the walls. They swing on strap hinges which span the area between two doors. Two rectangular, six-light windows are located in the west wall.

III. FUTURE OF THE PROPERTY

The Montana Power Company plans to demolish the two-stall garage at the Rainbow Hydroelectric Facility (FERC Project No. 2188). In accordance with the continuing management plans for historic Plant Operating Facilities, the Company is sponsoring Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) documentation of the building.

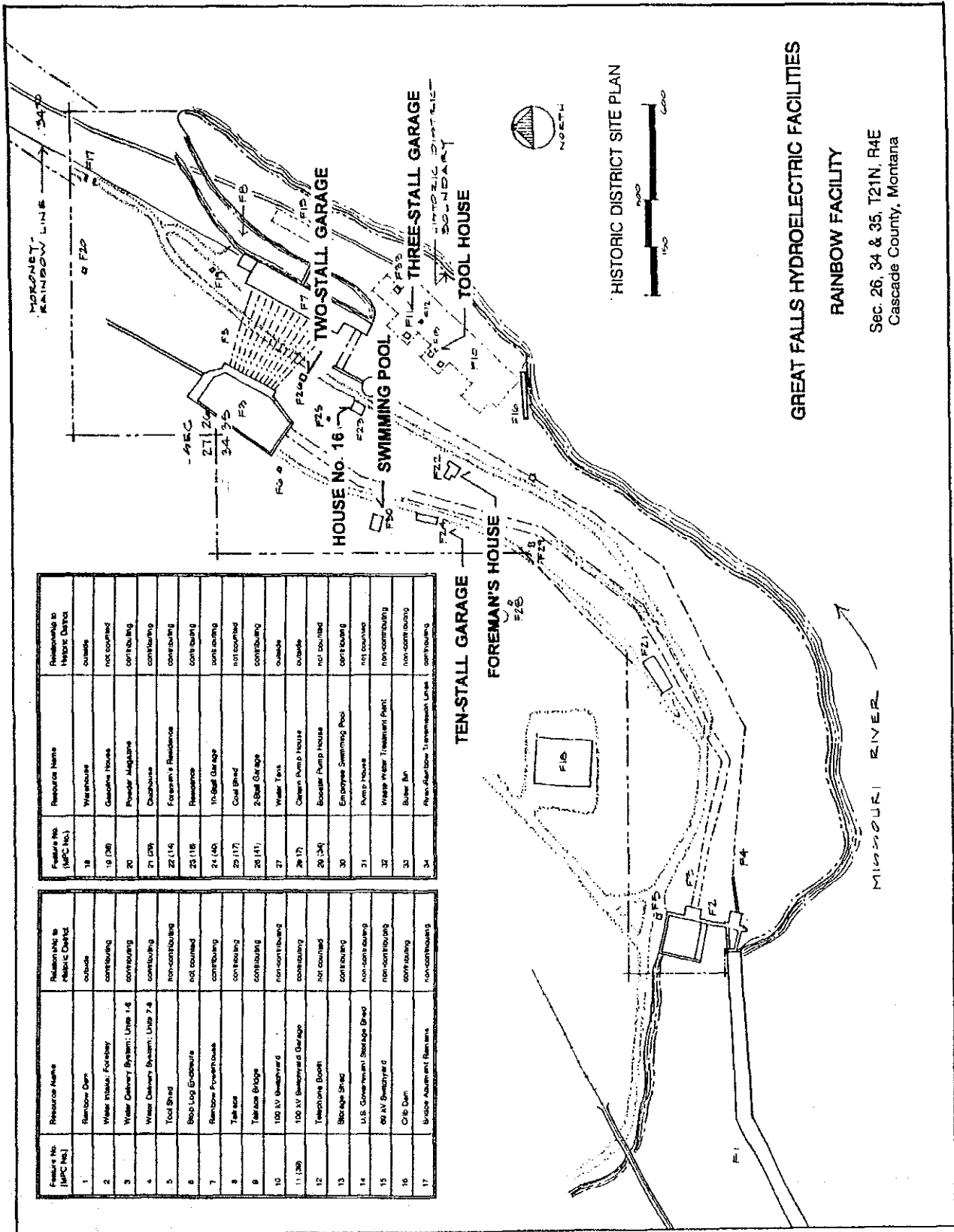


Figure 1. Rainbow Hydroelectric Facility Area Map.